

# NIDA NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

## ***Fresh Perspectives on Addressing Substance Abuse in the Medical Community*** **Media Tip Sheet: Spring 2011**

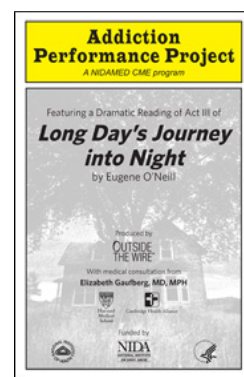
### The Issue

- Only a fraction of individuals who need specialty treatment for drug or alcohol addiction actually receive it each year. In 2009, more than 23 million people aged 12 or older needed specialized treatment for a drug or alcohol problem, but most—almost 21 million—did not receive it.
- Research has demonstrated that screening and brief intervention can promote significant reductions in alcohol and tobacco use. A growing body of literature also suggests benefits of screening and brief intervention for illicit or nonmedical prescription drug use as well.

### Educational Theater: The Addiction Performance Project

The **Addiction Performance Project (APP)** is a free continuing medical education (CME) program that offers healthcare providers the opportunity to help break down the stigma associated with addiction and promote a healthy dialogue that fosters compassion, cooperation, and understanding for patients living with this disease. This project is part of **NIDAMED**, NIDA's outreach to practicing physicians, physicians in training, and other health professionals.

Each performance begins with a dramatic reading of Act III of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night" by award-winning, professional actors. The reading is followed by a brief expert panel reaction and facilitated audience discussion.



### Top Discussion Points from the APP Program

- How to better identify and treat drug-addicted patients in primary care settings, including challenges and opportunities
- The role of individual biases and beliefs about people who abuse drugs and how these beliefs affect individual physician screening and treatment of patients
- How to incorporate screening, intervention, and referral to treatment into primary care settings

#### Praise for the Addiction Performance Project

*"As a doctor this performance blurs my practice and my life and was profoundly moving and will stay with me."*

*"I loved your use of theater as a vehicle for education and for discussing such an important topic."*

#### Additional Resources

##### **Addiction Performance Project:**

[www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed/APP](http://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed/APP)

**NIDAMED:** [www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed](http://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed)

##### **NIDA Press Room:**

[www.drugabuse.gov/NIDANews](http://www.drugabuse.gov/NIDANews)

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